

AROUND THE HOUSE

SUMMER



HAS ARRIVED!

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2005

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Housing and Community Services Department Mission

... to provide housing
and related services
to benefit the citizens
and neighborhoods of
Wichita

Although hot temperatures are a way of life in Kansas, the heat sometimes catches people by surprise. Following are tips to help you avoid heat-related problems.

The American Red Cross recommends the following for preventing heat-related illness:

Dress for the heat. Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing. Light colors will reflect away some of the sun's energy. It is also a good idea to wear hats or to use an umbrella.

Drink water. Carry water or juice with you and drink continuously even if you do not feel thirsty. Avoid alcohol and caffeine, which dehydrate the body.

Eat small meals and eat more often. Avoid foods that are high in protein which increase metabolic heat.

Avoid using salt tablets unless directed to do so by a physician. Slow down. Avoid strenuous activity. If you must do strenuous activity, do it during the coolest part of the day, which is usually between 4:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m.

Stay indoors when possible. Take regular breaks when engaged in physical activity on warm days. Take time out to find a cool place. If you recognize that you, or someone else, is showing the signals of a heat-related illness, stop activity and find a cool place. Remember, have fun, but stay cool!

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**Never leave children unattended in a car (in any weather)!!!**  
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Proper pet care is also important during the summer months, because pets, like humans, are susceptible to heat stroke. Following are pet care tips from the ASPCA:

- Never leave your pet alone in the car.
- Don't force your animal to exercise after a meal in hot, humid weather.
- When outside, pets need shady areas and plenty of fresh water.

Avoiding high energy bills can be a real challenge during the summer. Following are tips from the U.S. Department of Energy which can help you "Keep Cool and Save Money Too".

Use Air Conditioning and Fans Wisely

- Open windows and use portable or ceiling fans instead of operating your air conditioner.
- Use a fan with your window air conditioner to spread the cool air through your home.

Low Cost Tips to Save Energy

- Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs.
- Air-dry dishes instead of using your dishwasher's drying cycle.
- Use a microwave oven instead of a conventional electric range or oven. Turn off your computer and monitor when not in use.
- Plug home electronics, such as TVs and VCRs, into power strips and turn power strips off when equipment is not in use.
- Lower the thermostat on your hot water heater. 115 degrees is comfortable for most uses.
- Take showers instead of baths to reduce hot water use.
- Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes and use cold water whenever possible.

**Have a Safe,
Happy Summer!**

Milestones



Retirement!!

Don Reynolds recently announced his plans to retire on July 17. Don has been with the Housing and Community Services Department since 1996 when he began work as a Maintenance Coordinator. One of the things Don has done is streamline the work order process. This has contributed to outstanding high performance statistics—which translates to good customer service.

In 2004, response times on 617 emergency work orders was less than 24 hours 99.84% of the time! Additionally, 3,906 non-emergency work orders were handled within 4.61 days.

Don is leaving big shoes to fill. His retirement plans call for relocating to northern Oklahoma where he'll spend his leisure hours fishing! Congratulations Don!

Promotion!!

Rodney Beal was recently promoted to fill the vacancy created by Don Reynolds' retirement. So while we say good bye to Don, we say congratulations to Rodney!

New Office Update

- As most of you probably know, the office expansion project was completed in May, and all Public Housing and Section 8 staff are now located at 332 N. Riverview. All staff and office phone numbers remained the same. If you have had a chance to visit our new offices, we hope you have found them to be pleasant and professional. Please help us keep them this way by watching your children closely when you visit the office, and by not tossing trash on the grounds or in the parking lot!

Around the House

From the Director's Chair

Mary K. Vaughn



June was National Homeownership Month and the Housing and Community Services Department was involved in a number of special events to recognize the importance of homeownership.

On June 7, the Mayor and City Council recognized National Homeownership Month with a special proclamation.

On June 28, the Mayor and City Council toured a number of affordable housing developments which the City supports with its HOMEownership 80 Program, in addition to financial assistance to non profit organizations who are building homes in the revitali-

zation areas in Wichita. The tour sites included Planeview, Vassar Street (1300 block), North Ash (1900 block) and Millair Creek (25th & Minnesota). Many of the areas we visited are home to Section 8 homeowners—which made the event even more special!!

On June 30, the HUD Regional Director, Macie Houston, was in Wichita to round out our homeownership month activities. During her visit to the Millair Creek development, one of the newest homebuyers was recognized. During that event, Ms. Houston reinforced the Bush administration's support of

homeownership as she also recognized the Millair Creek development.

All of these events point to the importance of homeownership, because it is the American dream of many people. In addition, homeownership stabilizes communities and according to Ms. Houston's remarks, a national study found that children from homeowner-occupied homes have higher reading and math scores than children living in rental properties.

Section 8 and Public Housing residents are encouraged to explore whether homeownership is right for you!

Public Housing Modernization Projects

-Tom Byler

Funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Capital Fund Grant, Public Housing staff plans to complete the new chain-link fence project for the remaining 18 houses in the South City Public Housing Development on the 1500 and 1600 blocks of Berkeley and Catalina this summer. The new fencing will be plastic coated and have concrete mowing strips. The sidewalks and driveways were replaced in 2001. The fencing will be the final stage of exterior renovations in the South City Development and should prove to be a great improvement to the general neighborhood.

Another summer project planned is the façade rehabilitation of 12 Public Hous-

ing homes in the 2600 blocks of North Piatt and Ash. The front elevations of the homes will be modified with new siding, masonry treatments and roof designs. The homes that have previously been modified on Minnesota, Piatt and Ash have been a boost to the overall desirability of the neighborhood. The modernization staff has received numerous compliments from the surrounding neighbors and new homeowners in the Millair Creek Development adjacent to Public Housing residences.

McLean Manor residents will see a major window maintenance project this summer. All windows in the eight-story building will be caulked and washed. A number of windows were leaking during

wind driven rain. This project should eliminate the past problems with the windows.

The cost of the three summer projects will approach an estimated \$300,000. The Public Housing Program modernizes 349 single-family dwellings and 226 apartments units in its inventory with Capital Funds and continues to help make the surrounding neighborhoods better places to live.



Family Self-Sufficiency News

- Shaun Davis and Trivea Nolan

The summer is starting off with a "BANG" for participation in the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program. Efforts by our FSS team during orientation and enrollment sessions have produced 25 new FSS enrollees who will start their program in July. This increase raises our FSS participation level to 173 families, which is 117% of our goal. We are also happy to announce the upcoming (July, 2005) graduation of two families from the FSS program.

Our last workshop, "Understanding Credit/Debt and Your Credit Report", was a huge success. Attendance for this workshop was the largest this year and most of the attendees were enthusiastic and thankful for the information provided. The workshop evaluations received, indicated the desire to have more in-depth sessions focusing on specific aspects of credit improvement and/or repair.

These suggestions will be taken into account when planning future workshops. Following is a list of remaining FSS workshops for 2005:

July 14:	Substance Abuse
August 11:	Effective Parenting
September 8:	Budgeting/Homeownership
October 12:	Domestic Violence
November 10:	Understanding your FSS Escrow



Remember!
The above FSS Workshops are
MANDATORY!!!

CURRENT HAP PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Month	Mail Date
JULY 2005	JUNE 28, 2005
AUGUST 2005	JULY 29, 2005
SEPTEMBER 2005	AUGUST 20, 2005
OCTOBER 2005	SEPTEMBER 27, 2005

Section 8 Voucher Holders—Thinking About Moving?

- Gail Lotson

Any current Section 8 voucher holder who is considering moving to another city or state—**Take Note of the Following Change in Policy.**

Effective immediately, the Section 8 program will no longer be able to continue voucher payments for Section 8 clients who move out of Wichita. This change is necessary because of funding reductions for the Section 8 program. If a Section 8 family

moves to a jurisdiction which is willing to "absorb" the family into their program (where they pay the voucher costs), the Wichita Housing Authority will transfer the voucher (if the family is in compliance with the Wichita Section 8 program).

Wichita Section 8 families who wish to move to another city or state should contact the local Housing Authority to determine if that Housing Au-

thority is absorbing new families. If they are not, your request to move with your voucher will be denied by the Wichita Section 8 program.



Please keep this change in policy in mind as you plan housing accommodations for your family.

Cool Off at City Swimming Pools & Spray Parks

Now that summer is here, take time to cool off in one of the City of Wichita swimming pools—or in the new **spray parks!**

Spray parks are located in Fairmount Park (16th & Vassar) and Osage Park (2121 W. 31st Street South). Both are open from 8:00 am to 9:00 pm through late summer. Swimming pools locations are:

Aley Park, 1800 S. Seneca, 1:30-7:30 pm
Boston Park, 6700 E. Boston, 1:30 –6:00 pm
College Hill Park, 304 S. Circle Dr, 1:30-7:30 pm
Country Acres Park, 750 N. Country Acres, 1:30-5:30 pm
Edgemoor Park, 5811E 9th, 1:30-6:00 pm
Evergreen Park, 2700 N Woodland, 1:30-6:30 pm
Harvest Park, 9500 Provencal Lane, 1:30-7:30 pm
Linwood Park-South, 1900 S Hydraulic, 1:30-6:00 pm
McAdams Park, 1556 N Ohio, 1:30-6:00 pm
Minisa Park, 1350 N Jeanette, 1:30-5:30 pm
Orchard Park, 1062 N Clara, 1:30-6:00 pm

All parks open on May 31 and close on August 7—except College Hill Park, which closes on August 21.

Save Money on Your Phone Bill!!

You may be eligible to receive up to \$19.50 off your monthly local telephone bill through the **Lifeline** Program. If you don't currently have telephone service, you may also be eligible for a discount on your connection charge through **Link Up America**.

You are eligible if you receive any of the following: Food Stamps, General Assistance, SSI, Temporary Assistance to Families, Medicaid, United Tribes Food Distribution Program, Head Start (only those meeting its income qualifying standard), Free School Lunch Program, 150% of the Federal poverty level.

For more information about **Kansas Lifeline** or **Link Up America**, call your local telephone company. The number is on your telephone bill or in the front part of the telephone directory.

Information from the Kansas Corporation Commission. 1.800.662.0027.



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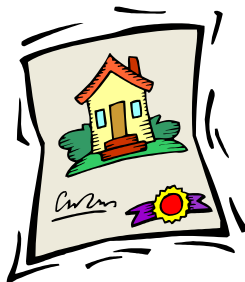
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Section 8 Homeownership Program!!

-Gail Lotson



Since 2002, 23 Section 8 families have become homeowners through the Housing and Community Services Department Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program. This program enables Section 8 clients to become homeowners by utilizing their vouchers as monthly mortgage assistance.

The program is limited to first-time homebuyers. Applicants will be required to have an annual income of at least \$10,300 and unless elderly or disabled, must have been employed continuously for one year prior to purchasing a home.

All applicants for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership Program are required to participate in the Family Self Sufficiency Program.

Homes purchased under this program must meet Housing Quality Standards, and must be inspected by an independent inspector. The homeowner is encouraged to participate in the City's maintenance reserve program, which covers major systems such as heating, electrical, roof, etc.

Financing will have to be arranged through regular lending channels. Assis-

tance with downpayment and closing costs may be available through other City of Wichita programs, however buyers must invest a minimum of \$500 or 1% of the purchase price, whichever is greater, from their own funds. The voucher assistance may be available to the Section 8 voucher holder for up to 15 years, subject to an annual re-certification of income.

If you are interested in the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership Program, contact Shaun Davis, Homeownership & Family Self Sufficiency Coordinator, at 462-3700.